

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 3 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Referring to FIG. 8 a graph is shown to illustrate a time progression as the three optical spots 80, 82, and 84 traverse across a multitude of tracks 112-116. Specifically, track 112 is represented by a row of marks in a solid track 118, track 114 is represented by a row of marks in a solid track 120, and track 116 is represented by a row of marks in a solid track 122. As discussed above, each row of marks appears as a solid line, i.e., zone, as the magnetic tape streams past the recording head 20 and the optical pickup system 22; this solid line of marks is seen as the shaded solid tracks 118, 120 and 122.--

In the claims:

Please amend claims 1, 4, 9 and 20 as follows:

RECEIVED

DEC 18 2002

Technology Center 2600

-- 1. (Amended) A triple push pull optical tracking method comprising:

receiving a set of three reflectance values from three optical spots on a recording medium in an optical pickup system;

generating three S-curves by pair-wise subtraction of reflectance values;

generating a linear position estimate by processing the S-curves; and

servoing the optical pickup system to the recording medium.

4. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein servoing the optical pickup system comprises comparing a desired position of the optical pickup system to a measured position from the linear position estimate.

9. (Amended) A triple push-pull system for generating a composite signal in a closed loop servo signal of a data recording system comprising:

an optical pickup system for generating three optical spots focused on a recording medium, the spots separated by equal distances across a track, the optical pickup system receiving a set of reflectances from the three spots;

media means for providing the servo tracks responsive to optical spot illumination;